

Annual Report

TO THE

HUNTINGDON RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL,

FOR

1904,

BY

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Birth Rate.....	5
Death Rate	5
Infant Mortality	5
Zymotic Death Rate	6
Prevalence of Disease	6
Small Pox.....	6
Scarlet Fever	7
Whooping Cough.....	8
Diphtheria.....	8
Enteric Fever	8
Influenza	9
Diarrhœa... ..	9
Erysipelas	9
Phthisis	9
Other Tubercular Diseases	9
Cancer	9
Respiratory Diseases	9
Heart Disease	10
Means of Prevention of Infectious Diseases	10
Over-crowding	11
Disinfection	11
Water Supply	12
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	12
House Sanitation	12
General Sanitation	13
Report of the Inspector of Nuisances ...	14
Tables I., II., III., and IV., at end of book.	

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1904. There being no means of my obtaining the actual figures of the population, I adopt those given in the census of 1901, viz., 6995.

Birth Rate.

The number of births given in Table I., col. 3, is 168,—78 males and 90 females—making a birth-rate of 24·01 per 1000.

Death Rate.

Table I., col. 7, shews 89 deaths as occurring in the district, making a death-rate of 12·7 per 1000. Five deaths,—four in the County Hospital, and one in the Peterborough Infirmary—were of persons belonging to the district, these added to the 89 deaths registered make a total of 94 deaths, or a corrected death-rate of 13·44 per 1000.

The increase of births over deaths is 74, giving a natural increase of 1 per cent.

Infant Mortality.

Only 9 deaths were registered of children under 1 year of age (Table I., col. 5), making a death-rate of Infantile Mortality of 53·57 per 1000 births, or 9·5 per cent. of the total number of deaths. This is a very low rate being less than half of the average for the previous ten years.

Zymotic Death Rate.

Eight deaths were caused by four of the seven principal Zymotic diseases, viz. :—

2	from Whooping Cough.
1	„ Diphtheria.
1	„ Enteric Fever.
4	„ Diarrhœa.

Making a Zymotic death-rate of 1·14 per 1000 of population, or 8·6 per cent. of the total number of deaths.

Prevalence of Disease.

An analysis of Tables III. and IV. will give the best information under the above heading. A total of 36 cases (Table III.) were reported under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, and were as follows :—

Diphtheria.....	5 cases.
Erysipelas.....	3 „
Scarlet Fever ...	26 „
Enteric Fever ...	2 „

Small Pox.

There were no cases in the District during the year. I have no means of ascertaining the exact percentage of vaccination, but judging from my own experience of the greater part of the district as Public Vaccinator, I have no reason to suspect that the opposition to vaccination is on the increase. A certain number of opponents to vaccination are bound to exist, but there can be no doubt that since domiciliary vaccination with calf lymph has been adopted, one great factor of discontent has been removed. An out-break of Small Pox would remove the remainder.

Measles.

Although there were no fatal cases, yet there were many cases of this disease, necessitating the closure of the Schools at Hartford and Great Stukeley. As it is not included in the list of notifiable diseases, I have no means of judging of the extent of the epidemic.

Although aware that it is doubted by many Authorities that it should be notifiable, I am sure that there can be no control of the spread of the complaint until it is made notifiable, and so it is my duty to recommend it.

Scarlet Fever,

No death, but 26 cases were reported of this disease, the greater part of them in school children, or traced to infection from them. They were distributed as follows:—

Alconbury.....	7	cases in 4	houses.
Alconbury Weston	2	„	2 houses.
Brampton	7	„	6 houses.
Sawtry	5	„	1 house.
Great Stukeley	1	„	1 house.
Little Stukeley	1	„	1 house.
Sapley.....	3	„	1 house.

The nine cases in Alconbury and Alconbury Weston were a continuation of the epidemic of the previous year. They occurred in school children, or those who were in attendance upon them. There was a considerable laxity displayed in the control of some of the cases, but I was unable to recommend a case to you suitable for prosecution.

The seven cases at Brampton were likewise a continuance of the epidemic of the previous year.

The five cases at Sawtry all occurred in one house, at an isolated farm lodge. I was unable to trace the origin of the first case, but there was no spread of the disease. The one case at Great Stukeley (St. Peter's Hill) may fairly be placed to the credit of the Borough of Huntingdon. One case at Little Stukeley probably came from the Alconbury epidemic, but I was unable to trace it with sufficient accuracy to say that undoubtedly such was the case. The three cases at Sapley were started from the epidemic that has been rife at Huntingdon. The first case was, without doubt, of school origin. With Scarlet Fever, when the epidemic is of a mild character, it is the old story of want of proper control of the patient, it would be more correct to say of the sufferer, for many cases do not in the ordinary sense of the word become patients, partly because the disease is of a mild character, and partly from wilful misrepresentation of those who have the control of the case.

Whooping Cough.

There were two deaths of children under 1 year of age from this complaint. It was epidemic during the early part of the year, the Spaldwick and Ellington Schools being closed in consequence.

Diphtheria.

The five cases of this disease were distributed as follows :—

Upwood, one case. Ellington, four cases in two houses, and these adjoining one another. The case at Upwood was of a very mild character, and there was no further spread of the disease. I failed to account for its origin. The four cases at Ellington, one of which was fatal, were probably started by the use of water from a well pronounced on examination by the County Analyst to be “contaminated with sewage.” I am unable to say that such without doubt was the origin of the disease, but the well has since been closed, and there was no further spread of the disease.

Enteric Fever.

Two cases of this disease were notified, one at Hartford, and one at Sawtry.

The case at Hartford may be attributed to the neglect of what turned out to be well constructed drains. It should be borne in mind that, however perfectly drains are constructed, they still require attention. The water, on analysis, proved to be of a suspicious character, and certainly should not be used without first boiling, and then filtering it. The excreta were disinfected and burnt, and there was no further spread of the disease.

The case at Sawtry was of a painful character, the patient dying within 24 hours of being first treated. It was only as a result of a postmortem examination that a diagnosis was accurately arrived at. The case ending so suddenly prevented any personal history being obtained. The well water, said not to be used for drinking purposes, was pronounced on analysis to be unfit for the same.

Influenza.

This disease was fairly general in the Spring, and again in the latter part of the year. There were no fatal cases, although the disease has been of a pronounced character.

Diarrhœa.

There were four fatal cases of this disease, which was general throughout the district.

Erysipelas,

There were only three cases of this disease, one each in the parishes of Hartford, Alconbury and King's Ripton.

Phthisis.

Under this heading is understood consumption of the lungs, only one death from this disease in a population of 6995 is a very satisfactory condition, the result of more attention being given by the people to the various instructions issued to them by different authorities. It is to be hoped that a disease hitherto claiming so many victims may be eventually eradicated, the general diminishing death-rate therefrom holding out such hopes.

Other Tubercular Diseases

Is a heading which accounts for two more deaths allied to the above, but necessarily becoming fewer, sharing in the result of the increased attention given to consumption.

Cancer.

Thirteen deaths, the same number as in the two previous years, stand out in strong contrast to the deaths from consumption. In former years the deaths from these two diseases were nearly equal. Is it too much to hope that the amount of labour and research, now bestowed upon cancer, may lead to a diminishing death-rate?

Respiratory Diseases.

Seven deaths from bronchitis, and five from pneumonia, make a total of 12 deaths under this heading.

Heart Disease.

Eight deaths are registered under this heading, about the average of previous years.

Tables II., III., and IV., are only in part filled up. Instructions being now issued to that effect, unless the population of the different localities can be correctly estimated for each.

Means of Prevention of Infectious Diseases.

Prompt attention is given, either by the Inspector of Nuisances or myself, to every case of notifiable infectious disease, and each case is kept under surveillance to its termination, and then disinfected. All children from infected houses are kept from school, and it is here that conflict between the Education Authority and the Sanitary Authority is apt to arise.

Much useful information is given by the head teachers to the Medical Officer of Health, but it would be still more useful, if early notice were given of any illness before it began to affect the number of school attendances; information in some cases only being given when the attendances are so low as almost to compel the closing of the schools.

I do not know whether the Education Authority officially reads the report of the Medical Officer of Health, but I would ask that a small fee be allowed for certificates given before children return to school. I do not ask for myself, as for years I have given them gratis, but schools in parishes which I do not visit as district Medical Officer, and, therefore, not so regularly, are placed at considerable inconvenience in obtaining a certificate before returning to school, which certificate should be made compulsory in every case. Naturally the Education Authority differ from the Sanitary Authority as to when children should return to school, but I would point out that a too early return is often attended with disastrous results.

Over-crowding.

The eight cases of over-crowding, which I reported last April, the result of a circular letter of the County Council, were distributed and remedied as follows :—

Alconbury—One case remains in the same state. It is impossible to do, or add, anything to the house, and the occupier has failed to get another house.

Brampton—One case remedied by removal.

Buckworth—Two cases remedied, one by removal, and the other by diminution of the family.

Hamerton—One case remedied by removal to a larger house.

Sawtry—One case remedied by diminution of family.

Woolley—One case remedied by diminution of family.

One good result has been obtained from the enquiry into over-crowding, viz., the adoption of the ~~400~~ cubic feet minimum for adults, and half that amount for children under 10 years of age. Over-crowding is of two kinds, social and cubic capacity. With the former the Sanitary Authority has nothing to do, and it is only where the latter is infringed that the Sanitary Authority can interfere. It then remains a very difficult question. The larger the family the more useful to the employer, and a house suitable to one tenant becomes unsuitable to the next. It is very easy, with a light heart, to say that the Landlord must provide additional accommodation, but with the increasing burdens upon land, it would be very hard to add to them, and unless the occupier will share the expense by paying more rent, inequalities of the burden must still exist.

300

Disinfection.

Disinfection is carried out in every case by the Inspector of Nuisances, by reference to his report annexed it will be seen that 27 houses were disinfected after infectious diseases. The means adopted are those used in former years, viz., burning of sulphur, washing with carbolic soap, and thorough cleansing of walls and ceilings.

Water Supply.

Despite the abundant supply with which last year was started, the waste during the last six months was very rapid.

Sawtry.—A large pond has now been dug, which in due time will be filled, and connected with a filter to a well, and a supply of good water will be then provided in a central situation.

Little Stukeley.—By cleansing a private pond, a good and abundant supply has at last been obtained for this village.

Great Raveley and Wennington.—The same as in previous years.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

A very important and satisfactory work has been carried out in the parish of Hartford, by the construction of an intercepting tank to the drain in the River Lane. The outfall has been carried well out into the river, so that a long standing nuisance has at last been remedied.

All dykes, acting as sewers, have had their annual cleansing. The drainage of Sawtry has had some attention, but great care has to be exercised, as the fall is so slight, and the level is liable to be lost, by frequent cleansing of the ditches.

The Bakehouses, Slaughter-houses, and Cow-sheds, have been duly inspected, and directions given for cleansing the same as necessity arose. I enclose with this Report a copy of a new table, which has to be sent to the Home Office.

House Sanitation.

The Scavenger's cart at Brampton performs such a useful work, that I confidently recommend one for the parish of Hartford. The subsoils and conditions of the two villages are so much alike, that I am sure a corresponding benefit would accrue, if one were purchased and used.

General Sanitation.

I have made, with the Inspector of Nuisances, a house to house visitation of the whole district. The appended summary of work done shows that it is steadily increasing. If anything has been over-looked, and our attention is drawn to the same, it shall receive our prompt attention.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

LANCELOT NEWTON,

*Medical Officer of Health
for the Huntingdon Rural District Council.*

Alconbury Hill,

Huntingdon,

January 24th, 1905.

BUCKWORTH.

January 23rd, 1905.

Dear Sir,

Herewith I append you summary of work done, or caused to be done, by or through me, under direction of the Hunts. Rural District Council for the year ending December 31st, 1904.

1. Number of Parishes inspected.....	24
2. Number of Houses, Premises, &c., inspected...	1072
3. Number of re-inspections	195
4. New Earth Closets caused to be erected...	7
5. Privy Vaults altered to Earth Closets	8
6. Defective Earth Closets repaired	6
7. House Drains repaired, trapped, or cleansed by Owners	} 25
8. Public Drains, offensive Ditches, &c., cleansed or repaired	
9. Pumps repaired, painted, &c.	6
10. Ashpits caused to be repaired.....	3
11. Samples of Water submitted for Analysis	4
12. Houses disinfected after Infectious Illness ..	27
13. Cases of over-crowding abated.....	8

I remain,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK FORTESCUE,

Inspector of Nuisances.

LANCELOT NEWTON, Esq.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Alconbury Hill.

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1904 AND PREVIOUS YEARS,
Name of District, Huntingdon Rural.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the Dirtrict.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Non-Residents Registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents Regis- tered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett deaths at all Ages belongihg to the District.	
				Under I year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
		Number.	Rate*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.	Number.	Rate*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894	7967	184	23·00	18	97·8	88	11·04	Public Institutions in the District.	Public Institutions in the District.	4	92	11·5
1895	„	187	24·4	25	133·6	108	13·5			2	110	13·8
1896	„	196	24·6	12	61·22	81	10·16			2	83	10·41
1897	„	179	24·46	26	145·2	106	13·3			2	108	13·55
1898	„	157	19·7	21	133·7	113	14·18			5	118	14·68
1899	„	181	23·00	16	86·95	110	13·8			3	113	14·18
1900	„	157	19·7	20	127·38	113	14·18			1	114	14·3
1901	6995	168	24·01	22	130·9	94	13·43			5	99	14·15
1902	„	173	24·74	13	75·1	92	13·15			2	94	13·29
1903	„	166	23·72	15	90·36	87	12·43	No	No	3	90	12·86
Averages for years 1894-1903	7675·4	174·8	23·13	18·8	108·2	99·2	12·9			2·9	102·1	13·2
1904	6995	168	24·01	9	53·57	89	12·7			5	94	13·44

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 ealculated per 1000 of estimated Population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, eorreeted by the substraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the distriet on aceount of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there ; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on aceount of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The “Public Institutions” to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses, and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of thedeaths in which corrections have been made are given below.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	54,403	Total population at all ages	6,995	At census of 1901.
		Number of Inhabited houses	1,671	
		Average number of persons per house	4·18	

Institutions within the District
receiving sick and infirm persons
from outside the District.

NIL.

Institutions outside the District
receiving sick and infirm persons
from the District.

Huntingdon County Hospital.
Huntingdon Workhouse,
and
Peterborough Infirmary.

Other Institutions, the deaths in which
have been distributed among the
several localities in the District.

NIL.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—NO.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1904 and previous years.

Name of District, Huntingdon Rural.

Names of Localities.		HUNTINGDON RURAL.			
YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	
	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
1894	7967	184	92	18	
1895	„	187	110	25	
1896	„	196	83	12	
1897	„	179	108	26	
1898	„	157	118	21	
1899	„	181	113	16	
1900	„	157	114	20	
1901	6995	168	99	22	
1902	„	173	94	13	
1903	„	166	90	15	
Average of years 1894 to 1903.	7675·4	174·8	102·1	18·8	
1904	6995	168	94	9	

See Text of Report.

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this Table should be areas of which the population are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are to be included in sub-column *c* of this Table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See note on Table I. as to the meaning of terms “resident” & “non-resident.”)

(c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.

(d) Care should be taken that the gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables I. and IV. ; thus, the totals of sub-columns *a*, *b*, and *c* should agree with the figures for the year in the columns 2, 3, and 12, respectively, of Table I. ; the gross total of the sub-column *c* should agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-column *d* with the total of column 3 in Table IV.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.

Name of District, Huntingdon Rural.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At Ages †—Years.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up- wards.
Small Pox							
Cholera							
Diphtheria	5		2	2	1		
Membranous croup							
Erysipelas	3	1				1	1
Scarlet fever	26		4	14	5	3	
Typhus fever.....							
Enteric fever.....	2				1	1	
Relapsing fever.....							
Continued fever.....							
Puerperal fever							
Plague							
TOTALS.....	36	1	6	16	7	5	1

See Text of Report.

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this Table should be the same as those in Tables II. and IV.

State in space before the name of the Isolation Hospital, if any, to which residents in the district, suffering from infectious disease, are usually sent.

No Isolation Hosptial.

† These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.
Name of District, Huntingdon Rural.

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Public Institutions in the District. 9
	All Ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 ond under 5. 4	5 and under 15 5	15 and under 25 6	25 and under 65 7	65 and up-wards. 8	
Small Pox								No Public Institution in the District.
Measles								
Scarlet Fever								
Whooping Cough	2	2						
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup...	1		1					
Croup								
Fever { Typhus								
Enteric.....	1					1		
Other continued								
Epidemic Influenza								
Cholera.....								
Plague								
Diarrhœa (see notes below)	4	2	1				1	
Enteritis (see notes below).....								
Puerperal Fever (see notes below)....								
Erysipelas								
Other septic diseases.....								
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	1					1		
Other tubercular diseases	2	1		1				
Cancer, malignant disease (see notes)	13		1			3	9	
Bronchitis	7	1	1			1	4	
Pneumonia	5		2			2	1	
Pleurisy								
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ..								
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of liver								
Venereal diseases								
Premature birth	2	2						
Diseases and accidents of parturition ..								
Heart disease	8					4	4	
Accidents.....	5					3	2	
Suicides	2						2	
All other causes	41	1	2	1		9	28	
All causes	94	9	8	2		24	51	

NOTES.—(a) In this Table all deaths of "Residents" occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be included with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8). Deaths of "Non-residents" occurring in public institutions in the district are in like manner to be excluded from columns 2-8 of this Table.

(b) See notes on Table I. as to the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-Residents," and as to the "Public Institutions," to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables. The "Localities" should be the same as those in Tables II. and III.

(c) All deaths occurring in public institutions situated within the district, whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents," are, in addition to being dealt with as in note (a), to be entered in the last column of this Table. The total number in this column should equal the figures for the year in column 9, Table II.

(d) The total deaths at all ages in column 2 of this Table should equal the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.

(e) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhœa, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from

Epidemic ;
Zymotic ;
Epidemic diarrhœa. Summer diarrhœa ;
Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa ;
Choleraic diarrhœa, cholera nostras
(in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis, and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhœa." Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

Under the heading of "Cancer" and "Puerperal fever" should be included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III., and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

January 24th, 1905.

LANCELOT NEWTON,
Medical Officer of Health.